

**REMARKS**

**Status of the Claims**

- I. Claims 8-20 are pending in this application.
- II. The Office Action has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of five groups of claims as set forth on page 2 of the Office Action for the reasons set forth on page 2.

The Applicants elect Group E, claims 17-20. The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed.

According to the M.P.E.P. § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it may include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

The Examiner must show that there would be a serious burden if the restriction is not required. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner nowhere contends, let alone demonstrates that a search of all the pending claims would be a serious burden. Further, at the Examiner's disposal are powerful electronic search engines providing the Examiner with the ability to quickly and easily search all of the claims.

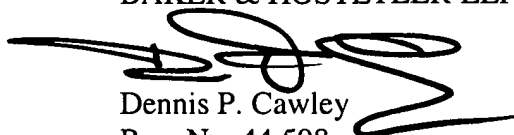
Applicants further note that groups A-C are drawn to the same class, 324, and subclass, 326. Furthermore, the claims contained in these groups are similar enough such that a search of the class/subclass would most likely result in similar references. Therefore, in line with M.P.E.P. § 803, a search and examination of these claims is not a serious burden.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all pending claims.

If any extension of time is necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 referencing attorney docket number 87288-1986.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP



Dennis P. Cawley  
Reg. No. 44.598

Washington Square, Suite 1100  
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Phone: (202) 861-1500  
Fax: (202) 861-1783  
Date: 5/5/04